



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

October 28, 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication:
WC Docket Nos. 01-92, 04-36, 05-337, 06-122**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi ("Governor"), this *ex parte* letter is filed in the above-referenced docket. The Governor had a telephonic discussion on October 24, 2007, with Mr. McDowell and on October 27, 2007, with Ms. Tate concerning the importance of protecting universal service funds for wireless carriers.

The State of Mississippi faces significant challenges in bringing the benefits of wireless and broadband services to its people. Much of the State is a High Cost Area which receives USF under the 1996 Telecommunications Act's promise that all Americans are entitled to comparable telecommunications services, regardless of whether they live in an urban or a rural area. The program has brought high quality wireless service to many parts of our State which would not otherwise enjoy its benefits and are a key part of our successful economic development infrastructure. The program also helped build cell towers along Mississippi's coast which were a vital part of our response following Hurricane Katrina when many landlines were down.

The recent proposals before the Commission concerning USF would harm rural Americans' access to telecommunications services. There is no evidence of an "emergency" or a "crisis" caused by USF support for wireless which requires drastic, immediate action by the FCC. Furthermore, the timing of the proposal on election day prevents the proposal from having the benefit of the review of the public and Congress.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch

Page 2

October 28, 2008

Although immediate action is not necessary, any proposal going forward should be competitively and technologically neutral. Further, wireless providers should be allowed to participate in any policy initiatives to bring broadband to rural America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colby Lane', with a stylized, flowing script.

Colby Lane

Chief Counsel to Governor Haley Barbour

Chairman Kevin Martin

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

Commissioner Deborah Tate

Commissioner Robert McDowell